



UNITED STATES SENATOR • NEBRASKA

CHUCK HAGEL

P R E S S R E L E A S E



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Senate Approves Agriculture Funding *Hagel Sanctions Provision Included*

Washington, D.C. – The United States Senate on Thursday night approved funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2001 by a vote of 79 to 13. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) voted in favor of the measure.

“This bill provides critical funding for Nebraska’s agricultural producers at a time when they are being hit by drought or low commodity prices or both,” said Hagel.

The annual spending bill for agricultural programs also includes a provision, sponsored by Hagel, exempting food and medicine from unilateral economic sanctions imposed by the United States. “Food and medicine are fundamental human needs and should not be included in unilateral sanctions,” said Hagel. “When we shut our agricultural producers out of foreign markets we hurt them, not the foreign heads of state we’re intending to punish.”

The \$76.25 billion bill includes funding for the following programs of importance to Nebraska:

- \$900 million in nationwide emergency disaster assistance. The bill includes payments to producers for hay losses incurred this year.
- \$450 million nationwide for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP). This program provides direct payments to livestock producers.
- Increased funding for salaries and expenses for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). This year alone, Nebraska’s FSA workers have logged in 10,000 hours of overtime. Senator Hagel wrote to the committee requesting increased funding to ensure producers more efficient service from the FSA.
- Increased funding for the Agricultural Research Service. This includes \$500,000 in funding for research into manure handling and distribution in Clay Center, Nebraska, and \$250,000 for the same research in Lincoln.
- Increased funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which partners with landowners and agricultural producers to carry out soil and water programs. Senator Hagel wrote to the committee requesting an increase in funding.
- Increased funding for the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. The RC&D Program is a public-private partnership assisting multi-county areas in enhancing conservation, water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation and rural development. Senator Hagel wrote to the committee requesting an increase in funding.